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33. The CPU of claim 32, wherein the CPU is one of a stand-alone unit and a unit included in a portable personal computer.

REMARKS

Claims 21-33 are pending. Claims 21-25 have been amended and new claims 26-33 have been added to provide an additional measure of protection for the invention.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on a combination of the Hansen and EerNisse patents. Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 21 recites an electronic scale integrally formed within a flat-panel display. The scale includes a platform for supporting items and a weighing unit mounted at least partially within the housing of the display. The weighing unit includes a force transducer which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of the item when the item is placed on the platform.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 21, two requirements must be satisfied. First, the cited references must teach or suggest all the features in claim 1. Second, there must have been some teaching or suggestion in existence at the time the claimed invention was made that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in an attempt to form the invention. See MPEP § 2143.01 and *In re Rouffet*, 47 USPQ.2d 1459 (Fed. Cir. 1997). It is respectfully submitted that the Hansen and EerNisse patents do not satisfy this test.

Claim 21 is different from the Hansen patent in at least two respects.

First, claim 21 recites an electronic scale integrally formed within a flat-panel display. As those skilled in the art can appreciate, the term "flat-panel display" means a display used for outputting information from a personal computer.¹ To evidence the meaning of the term "flat-panel display" as understood by one of ordinary skilled in the art, Applicant has submitted the definition attached to this paper. This definition indicates that a flat-panel display is one which may be used for outputting information from a personal computer such as but not limited to a portable computer. Such a display, for example, can output information corresponding to one or more application programs including word processing programs, spread-sheets, internet web browsers, and even postage-computing programs if desired. A flat-panel display of this type is shown, for example, in Figures 1-3 of Applicant's drawings.

The Hansen patent does not teach or suggest a scale formed within a flat-panel display. The Hansen patent discloses an electronic scale 12 used for weighing articles of mail. This scale includes an internal weighing mechanism, a keyboard, and a display. As shown in Figure 1, the Hansen display is not a flat-panel display as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art (e.g., one used for a personal computer), but rather is merely a one-line display for outputting a weight measurement. Such a display clearly does not constitute a flat-panel display.

¹ The term "personal computer" is intended to cover desktop computers, laptop computers, and notebook computers as well as personal digital assistants and so-called pocket computers.

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Second, claim 21 recites a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of the flat-panel display. The Hansen patent discloses mounting a one-line display in a scale 12. As previously discussed, the display of Hansen is not a flat-panel display. Accordingly, Hansen does not teach or suggest mounting a weighing unit at least partially within a housing of a flat-panel display as is the case with the claimed invention.

Based on at least the foregoing differences, it is respectfully submitted that the Hansen patent cannot render claim 21 obvious.

The EerNisse patent was cited for its disclosure of a force transducer. Like the Hansen patent, however, the EerNisse patent does not teach or suggest a flat-panel display as this term is understood by those skilled in the art. Absent a teaching or suggestion of this feature, it is respectfully submitted that a Hansen-EerNisse combination cannot render claim 21 obvious.

Claim 22 recites an electronic scale integrally formed within a printer of a personal computer. Such a printer includes, for example, a laser printer, an ink-jet printer, or any one of a number of other types of printers. The Hansen and EerNisse patents do not teach or suggest a scale incorporated within a printer of this type. More specifically, while the Hansen scale 12 includes a printer, neither this scale nor any other feature of the Hansen system constitutes a personal computer. Accordingly, Hansen does not teach or suggest an electronic scale integrally formed within a printer of a personal computer as recited in claim 22. As for EerNisse, its system does not even have a printer.

Claim 22 further recites a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said printer. Because Hansen and EerNisse does not teach or suggest a scale formed in a printer

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of a personal computer, it logically follows that neither patent teaches or suggests a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of such a printer.

Based on at least these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is patentably distinguishable from a Hansen-EerNisse combination.

The Examiner rejected claims 23-25 under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination formed among the Hansen, EerNisse, and Gil patents. Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 23 recites an electronic scale integrally formed within a CRT monitor. The scale includes a platform for supporting an item and a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of the CRT monitor. As the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action, neither the Hansen patent nor the EerNisse patent teaches or suggests a CRT monitor, let alone one having an electronic scale integrally formed within a housing thereof. To make up for these deficiencies, the Gil patent was cited.

The Gil patent discloses a self-service mail processing system. As shown in Figure 1a, this system includes a load cell 215 mounted under a platform 150, a monitor 110, and an IBM-compatible computer 1308 (Fig. 7) located in a support tray 130.

Claim 23 is different from the Gil patent in at least one respect. Claim 23 recites a weighing unit **mounted at least partially within a housing** of a CRT monitor. The Gil patent does not teach or suggest these features. As shown in Figure 1a, the Gil system includes a monitor 110 and a scale formed from load cell 215 and platform 150. Although not explicitly shown, the disclosure of the Gil patent makes clear that monitor 110 is enclosed within a housing

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connected to a front side of the Gil system. That this is the case is evident from the fact that all other internal components of the Gil system (e.g., computer 1308, postage meter 211, etc.) are supported by shelves or trays located inside of the Gil system. Neither Figure 1a nor any other figure of the Gil patent teaches or suggest incorporating electronic scale (215, 150) within a housing supporting monitor 110. In fact, Gil teaches directly away from these features of the invention.

As shown in Figure 1a, the electronic scale (215, 150) of Gil is separated from the housing enclosing monitor 110 by floppy disk drives 124 and 126, bar-code scanner 151, as well as other features such as element 122. The inclusion of these components between monitor 110 and the scale makes it clearly evident that scale (215, 150) is not incorporated at least partially within a housing of monitor 110 as required by the claimed invention. Moreover, Figure 1a shows that load cell 215 and platform 150 are mounted completely external to the front side of the Gil system, i.e., load cell 215 and platform 150 are attached to the front side of the Gil system not at least partially within as required by claim 23.

Because the Gil patent does not teach or suggest an electronic scale which is integrally formed within a CRT monitor, it is respectfully submitted that combining Gil with the Hansen and EerNisse patents will not result in the scale recited in claim 23. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is patentably distinguishable over the Examiner's combination.

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New claim 26 has been added to the application. This claim recites that the CRT monitor of claim 23 is one of a stand-alone monitor and a monitor included in a portable personal computer. None of these features are taught or suggested by the references of record, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 24 recites an electronic scale integrally formed within a CPU unit of a personal computer. The scale includes a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of the CPU unit. None of these features are taught or suggested by the cited references.

The Gil patent discloses a CPU unit 1308. (See Figure 7). As disclosed at column 6, lines 60-62, the CPU unit of Gil is supported within a sliding tray 130 located above and separate from the load cell 215 and platform 150 which form the scale of the Gil system. In fact, as shown in Figure 1a, the scale of Gil is located even further away from computer 1308 than monitor 110. Because the Gil patent discloses that its computer 1308 and scale are mounted separately from one another and in separately housings, it is respectfully submitted that a Hansen-EerNisse-Gil combination cannot render claim 24 obvious.

New claim 27 recites that the CPU of claim 24 is one of a stand-alone unit and a unit included in a portable personal computer. None of the references of record teach or suggest these features, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 25 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claims 21-24 from the Hansen, EerNisse, and Gil patents. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 25 is allowable.

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New claims 26-33 recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish one or more of the foregoing claims from the references of record. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections and objections made by the Examiner is hereby respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that further amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner believes that a personal interview would be advantageous in order to more expeditiously resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 16-0607 (Attorney Docket No. NMS-0007A) and

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credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ntiros', written over a horizontal line.

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Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims

22. (Amended) An electronic scale integrally formed within [a housing of] a printer of a personal computer, comprising:

a platform for supporting an item; and

a weighing unit mounted at least partially within a housing of said printer, said weighing unit including a force transducer which outputs a weight signal indicative of a weight of said item when said item is placed on said platform.

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flat-panel display

Last modified: Thursday, August 30, 2001

A very thin display screen used in portable computers. Nearly all modern flat-panel displays use LCD technologies. Most LCD screens are backlit to make them easier to read in bright environments.

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